

# “The Essentials Of Our Faith”

## Session XXI

March 6, 2011

### “JUSTIFICATION”:

### The Person And Work Of Jesus Christ!

The Gospel is the “Good News” about the **Person** and **Work** of Jesus Christ, the Son of God! There is no more important message that can be communicated to mankind!

*“Confusion about salvation means disaster, for the message of the Gospel is a matter of eternal life or eternal death. ‘What is the Gospel?’ is not an academic question. It affects the destiny of every lost sinner as well as the activity of every witnessing Christian and every soul-winning ministry.”*

--Warren W. Wiersbe

How common it is to hear the Gospel put into words that cause misunderstanding or confusion! **Why?** A primary cause is that many people do not understand the Gospel! Another cause is that sincere Believers often do not know how to “**word**” the Gospel!

*“ . . . it seems to me that those who believe in the inerrancy of the Bible ought especially to be concerned with accuracy in communicating the truth. All the Bible is inerrant and important to us. But certainly how we as Christians express the Gospel ought to be our greatest concern. We do not want to confuse or short-change or obscure God’s good news of His grace – how He gave His Son so that we might have life through faith in Him. Semantics is key in understanding and communicating the Gospel. . . . we must strive to use the words that give a clear witness to the grace of God. It is not that God cannot use an unclear message; doubtless He does more often than He would prefer to. But why should He have to? Why don’t we sharpen our understanding of what the Gospel is about so that we can present it as clearly as possible, using the right words to herald the good news correctly?*

--Charles C. Ryrie

The Apostle Paul cautions about the importance of spoken words being **understood**:

*“ . . . even lifeless things, either flute or harp, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp? For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle? So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.”* I Cor. 14:7-9

## What Is The Gospel?

### **A. A Clear Understanding and Statement of the “Gospel” begins with an Accurate Knowledge of the Character of God → Theology Proper. (“Who is God?”)**

#### **1. The Absolute Attributes of God are:** (Who He is in Himself)

“Spirituality” → “Self-existence” → “Immutability” → “Unity” → “Truth” → “Love” → “Holiness”.

#### **2. The Relative Attributes of God are:** (Who He is in relation to His creation)

“Eternity” → “Immensity” → “Omnipresence” → “Omniscience” → “Omnipotence” → “Truth” → “Mercy” → “Justice”.

**--Summary: God is “perfect” in all aspects – His Person and His Ways!  
He is incapable of any deviation or violation of His “perfections”!**

### **B. A Clear Understanding and Statement of the “Gospel” Requires an Accurate Knowledge of the Nature of Man → Biblical Anthropology. (“Who Is Man?”)**

#### **1. Mankind was created by a specific “act” of God, Gen. 1:27; 2:7.**

--He “created” man/woman and “breathed” into mankind the “breath of life”, making the “life” of mankind unique in all God’s creative activity (not just the highest form of animal life)!

#### **2. Mankind was created in the “image” of God, Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1,3.**

--He “created” man “in His image”, making mankind a “person” like God, possessing intellect (reason/logic), will (volition/choice), and responsibility for conduct.

#### **3. Mankind was created with the ability/privilege to have “relationship” with God Himself, Gen. 1:26-27; 3:8.**

--This relationship was based on the sharing of “spiritual” life;  
--This relationship allowed for personal “fellowship” with God;  
--This relationship was the purpose of human “existence”!

#### **4. Mankind exercised the privilege of “choice” and “rebelled” against God, Gen. 3:1-24.**

--Mankind “died” spiritually → lost spiritual life and fellowship, Gen 2:17; 3:7,10.  
--Mankind “died” physically → lost immortality, Gen. 5:5,8,11,14,17,20,27,31.  
--Mankind “experienced” psychological/emotional instability (guilt, fear, disloyalty, blame, pain, anger, lying, murder, Gen. 3:7,8,13,17; 4:5,8.  
--Mankind was marked by “lawlessness” → Gen. 4:1-8; Rom. 1:18-32; I Jn. 3:4.  
(He became a “law” unto Himself → man “worshipping” man!)

# The Biblical Doctrine Of “Sin”

## **A. New Testament Definitions:** (Provided by Dr. Paul Enns)

1. “Sin is a transgression of the Law of God.”

*“The Greek word parabasis means ‘overstepping, transgression.’ God gave the Mosaic Law to heighten man’s understanding of His standard and the seriousness of transgressing that standard.”*

*“You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?” (Rom. 2:23)*

*“Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions . . .” (Gal. 3:19)*

2. “Sin a failure to conform to the standard of God.”

*“The Greek word hamartia means ‘miss the mark,’ ‘every departure from the way of righteousness.’ Hence, it means that all people have missed the mark of God’s standards and continue to ‘fall short’ of that standard. This involves both sins of commission as well as omission. Failure to do what is right is also sin.”*

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Rom. 3:23)*

*“ . . . and whatever is not from faith is sin.” (Rom. 14:23)*

3. “Sin is a principle within man.”

*“Sin is not only an act but also a principle that dwells in man. Paul refers to the struggle with the sin principle within (Rom. 7:14, 17-25); all people have this sin nature (Gal. 3:22).”*

*“Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Christ Jesus our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.” (Rom. 7:24-25)*

4. “Sin is rebellion against God.”

*“Another Greek word for sin is anomia, which means ‘lawlessness’ (I John 3:4) and can be described as a “frame of mind”. It denotes ‘lawless deeds’ (Titus 2:14) and is a sign of the last days, meaning ‘without law or restraint’ (Matt. 24:12).”*

*“Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.” (I John 3:4)*

5. “Sin is wrongful acts toward God and man.”

*“Romans 1:18 refers to ‘ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.’ Ungodliness refers to man’s failure to obey God and keep the commandments related to Him (Ex. 20:1-11); unrighteousness is seen in man’s failure to live righteously toward His fellow man (Ex. 20:12-17).”*

## B. The “Inheritance” of Sin:

### 1. Meaning:

*“Inherited sin is that sinful state into which all people are born. . . . This emphasizes the truth that all people inherit this sinful state from their parents , and their parents from their parents, all the way back to Adam and Eve. Others call it the sin nature which focuses on the fact that sin has corrupted our entire nature. . . . Still others call it original sin because Adam’s original sin produced that moral corruption of nature which was transmitted by inheritance to each succeeding generation.”*

--Charles C. Ryrie

### 2. Biblical Use:

- a. Psalm 51:5 → Indicates that this is something we have from conception, not something we acquire by actions during our lifetime!

*“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.”*

- b. Ephesians 2:3 → Clearly states that all aspects of man’s being are corrupt!

*“Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”*

- 1) His intellect is “blinded”, II Cor. 4:4.
- 2) His mind is “reprobate” or “disapproved”, Rom. 1:28.
- 3) His understanding is “darkened”, “separated” from God, Eph. 4:18.
- 4) His emotions are “degraded” and “defiled”, Rom. 1:21,24,26; Titus 1:15.
- 5) His will is “enslaved” to sin and “opposes” God, Rom. 6:20; 7:20.

### 3. Penalty:

*“The penalty that is particularly related to inherited sin is **spiritual death**. Now death always indicates a separation of some kind, so spiritual death means a separation from the life of God in this present life (Eph. 2:1-3). If this condition continues unchanged throughout life, then eternal death or the ‘second death’ follows (Rev. 20:11-15).”*

--Charles C. Ryrie

### 4. Remedy:

*The remedy for inherited sin is “new life” in Jesus Christ!*

- a. Justification:

*“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are **in Christ Jesus**,” Rom. 8:1.*

- b. Sanctification:

*“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death, Rom. 8:2.*

## C. The “Imputation” of Sin:

### 1. Meaning:

*“To impute means to ‘attribute’ or ‘reckon’ or ‘ascribe’ something to someone.”*

### 2. N.T. Use:

#### a. The imputation of Adam’s “sin” to the human race, Rom. 5:12-21.

*“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because **all sinned**, Rom. 5:12.*

*“All sinned when Adam sinned. . . . The sin of all is centered in that of the man Adam. . . . Thus Adam’s sin was imputed to each member of the human race because each member of the race actually sinned in Adam when Adam sinned. . . . Imputed sin is transmitted directly from Adam to each individual in every generation.”* --Charles C. Ryrie

(Other N.T. Uses – not the focus of this study)

#### b. The imputation of mankind’s “sin” to Christ, II Cor. 5:19; I Pet. 2:24.

#### c. The imputation of Christ’s “righteousness” to the Believer, II Cor. 5:21.

### 3. Penalty:

*Physical death is the particular penalty connected with imputed sin, Rom. 5:13-14.*

### 4. Remedy:

*The remedy for imputed sin in the imputed righteousness of Christ!  
(II Cor. 5:21; Rom. 4:6; 10:4; Phil. 3:9)*

## Summary

*“Sin may be summarized as threefold: An ‘**Act**’, the violation of, or want of obedience to the revealed will of God; a ‘**State**’, absence of righteousness; a ‘**Nature**’, enmity toward God.”* --C.I. Scofield

*“Christendom is rapidly losing ‘**sin-consciousness**’, which means losing “**God-consciousness**, which means **eternal doom**: ‘As were the days of Noah . . . as it came to pass in the days of Lot . . . **they knew not.**’ Because iniquity abounds, the love of many professing Christians is waxing **cold**; so we see a ‘Sardis’ condition everywhere . . . on many faces, the horrid lack of spiritual life; the lightless, sightless eyes; the chill – the corpse-like chill, of the lifeless, the unfeeling.”* --William R. Newell